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Assembly California Legislature



KATCHO ACHADJIAN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

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VICE CHAIR: ACCOUNTABILITY
AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
BANKING AND FINANCE
TRANSPORTATION

JOINT COMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

March 20, 2014

Noelle Nichols
Central California Grants and Cooperative Agreements
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: Five Cities Fire Authority Grant Request for Specialty Emergency Response Vehicle

Dear Ms. Nichols,

As the Assemblymember for the 35th District I respectfully ask for your consideration of the grant request by the Five Cities Fire Authority in support of the purchase of a specialty emergency response vehicle to assist in responses to the Oceano Dunes Recreational Area.

Fire Station 61 for the Five Cities Fire Authority is located at 1655 Front Street in Oceano, and is the closest fire station to the California State Parks Oceano Dunes Recreational Area. A specialty emergency response vehicle known as Patrol 61 is housed at Station 61 and is available for response to the Oceano Dunes Recreational Area at every hour and every day of the year.

Acquisition of Patrol 61 came through an agreement between California State Parks and the Oceano Community Services District's Fire Department. This agreement called for California State Parks and the Oceano Community Services District to purchase the specialty response vehicle and for the Oceano Fire Department to use the vehicle for response to the Oceano Dunes Recreational Area. This seven year agreement has now lapsed but the emergency response has continued. Dedicated response using Patrol 61 continued after the July 2010 merger of Oceano Fire Department into a consolidated fire department, which included the City of Arroyo Grande Fire Department and the City of Grover Beach Fire Department, and which created the Five Cities Fire Authority.

Response to the Oceano Dunes area has over time increased wear on Patrol 61 which because of exposure to the salt water environment now stands in need of replacement. The Five Cities Fire Authority cannot afford to continue to pay for major repairs and maintenance to the vehicle but is committed to continue providing emergency response to the Oceano Dunes Recreational Area.

Five Cities Fire Authority has submitted a grant application to the California State Parks Off Highway Vehicle Grant Program and is hopeful that the awarded grant would help pay for a new specialty emergency response vehicle designed for the purpose of responding into the Oceano Dunes Recreational Area. Although the Authority does not receive any compensation for personnel costs associated with this service, the award of this grant will mean that this vital emergency service to the Oceano Dunes Recreational will continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Khatchik H. Achadjian".

Khatchik H. "Katcho" Achadjian
35th Assembly District